

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
NEA-10 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-11
AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15
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USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD
SUBJECT: UNCTAD - PREFERENCES CONSULTATION PROCEDURES

1. UNCTAD SECRETARIAT (STORDEL) HELD BRIEF CONSULTATION WITH GROUP B APRIL 11 PURSUANT RESOLUTION 5(VIII) CONCERNING NEW CONSULTATION PROCEDURES OR CHANGES IN EXISTING ONES. STORDEL OPENED MEETING BY ASKING GROUP B'S REACTION TO IDEA THAT HAD BEEN ADVANCED BY G-77 OF HAVING UNCTAD CONSULTATIONS IN CAPITALS OF PREFERENCE GIVING COUNTRIES. SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION MADE IT CLEAR THAT ALL GROUP B COUNTRIES OPPOSED TO THIS IDEA. GROUP B REPS ON OTHER HAND POINTED TO EXISTING POSSIBILITY FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN PREFERENCE RECIPIENTS AND PREFERENCE DONORS IN DONOR CAPITALS. GROUP B COUNTRIES ALSO EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS IN PRESENT MULTILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IN GENEVA MEETINGS OF UNCTAD SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PREFERENCES. IN VIEW OF INCONCLUSIVE
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NATURE OF RECENT OECD MEETING ON SUBJECT AMONG GROUP B COUNTRIES, GROUP B COUNTRIES WERE CAUTIOUS ABOUT GOING INTO DETAIL BUT IDEA OF HOLDING UNCTAD PREFERENCE MEETINGS ON REGULAR ANNUAL BASIS WAS DISCUSSED AND SEEMED TO ENJOY GENERAL SUPPORT. IT WAS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT VARIOUS GROUP B COUNTRIES HAD DIFFERENT IDEAS AS TO WHAT WOULD BE BEST TIME OF YEAR FOR SUCH MEETING.

2. THERE WAS ALSO SOME DISCUSSION OF POSSIBILITY OF MERGING MANUFACTURES COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL GROUP ON PREFERENCES WITH SWITZERLAND AND BELGIUM PUSHING IDEA AND FRANCE EXPRESSING SKEPTICISM. SINCE THIS TOPIC WAS NOT ON AGENDA AND VIEWS WERE DIVIDED, NO CONCLUSIONS REACHED AND TOPIC DROPPED.

3. IN SUMMING UP RESULTS, STORDEL NOTED THAT GROUP B APPEARED OPEN-MINDED TO IMPROVING EXISTING PROCEDURES BUT HIGHLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT NEED OR DESIRABILITY OF NEW CONSULTATION PROCEDURES, PARTICULARLY IDEA OF UNCTAD CONSULTATIONS IN CAPITALS. HE NOTED GROUP B OPPOSED ANY CHANGES THAT WOULD MODIFY PRESENT AUTONOMOUS LEGAL NATURE OF GSP.

4. PRIOR TO MEETING UNCTAD SECRETARIAT NOTED THAT OUR RESPONSE TO QUESTIONNAIRE CONCERNING RULES OF ORIGIN WHICH WAS REQUESTED FOR JANUARY 31, 1978 NOT YET RECEIVED (GENEVA A-310). WHAT IS STATUS?
VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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